

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**PUBLIC MEETING:** January 21, 2009 at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville, VA 22473. An afternoon public meeting will be held from 1-3pm and the evening public meeting from 6-8pm. The Library asks that you please park at the side or in back of the building.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality for a shellfish growing area, a public comment opportunity, and two public meetings.

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** First public meetings on a study to restore water quality for shellfish growing areas along Owens Pond, Little Taskmakers Creek, and an UT to the Chesapeake Bay near Fleeton Point which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in the shellfish growing waters of the (tidal) Owens Pond and Little Taskmakers Creek including their tributaries, and an UT to the Chesapeake Bay near Fleeton Point. These condemnations include an area of approximately 0.246 square miles in Northumberland County. These streams are impaired for failure to meet the designated use of shellfish consumption because of bacterial water quality standard violations.

Stream	County	Area (miles <sup>2</sup> )	Impairment
Owens Pond	Northumberland	0.187	<b>Shellfish Use</b> (Fecal Coliform) bacteria
Little Taskmakers Creek	Northumberland	0.040	
UT to Chesapeake Bay	Northumberland	0.019	

The study reports the current status of the Creeks via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Health; Division of Shellfish Sanitation, shellfish area condemnations and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on February 23, 2009. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

**CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Name:** Margaret Smigo – TMDL Coordinator

**Fax:** (804)-527-5106

**Address:** VDEQ, Piedmont Regional Office  
4949A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA, 23060

**E-mail:** [mjsmigo@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:mjsmigo@deq.virginia.gov)

**Telephone:** (804) 527-5124